

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 5(a)-5(d), Figs. 5(f)-5(g), Figs. 6(a)-6(c), Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 have been amended. The attached sheets of formal drawings replace all of the original sheets.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New drawings are submitted to address the Examiner's objections. The change requested in the third paragraph on page 2 has not been made because Applicant believes that there is a clear indication of the association of reference characters and Figs. If the Examiner repeats this objection, the Examiner is respectfully requested to address the perceived objection with more specifics.

The specification has been amended to address the change to Fig. 7.

Claims 1 to 5, 6, 10, 14 and 15 have been amended to address the objections thereto. Claims 3 and 11 have not been amended since it is believed that the term "the other" in these claims is more accurate than the term "another." Claim 17 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8/1, 8/2, 8/4, 8/5 and 8/6 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (U.S. Patent No. 6,132,260) in view of the prior art of Figs. 1-3 of the Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,865,934). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants' invention as reflected in independent claim 1 is directed to the multiport connector which comprises *inter alia* a housing having at least two aligned compartments and a multilayer printed wiring board separating the two compartments in which the printed wiring board has circuit patterns on opposite sides of opposed non-conductive layers and a metal shielding layer intermediate the non-conductive layers.

As recognized by the Examiner, Wu does not disclose a multilayer printed wiring board. More significantly however, Wu does not disclose a shield between the upper and lower compartments. Accordingly, there would be no motivation for one skilled in the art to use a printed wiring board such as Yamamoto et al in place of the board 7 of Wu.

Assuming for the sake of the argument that there is a suggestion in Wu to provide internal shielding, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion to do so by improving the shield in the printed wiring board 7. Indeed, in U.S. Patent No. 6,206,725 in which Wu is the inventor and the assignee is the same assignee as the assignee of Wu '260, a connector assembly is disclosed which appears to be very similar to the connector assembly disclosed in Wu '260 and in which inner shielding is effected by an inner shielding member 3 which is vertically disposed

behind the upper and lower compartments rather than incorporated in circuit boards of the upper and lower compartments or disposed horizontally between the circuit boards.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that neither Wu '260 nor the combination of Wu '260 and Yamamoto disclose or suggest Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claim 1.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 8/1, 8/2, 8/4, 8/5 and 8/6 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and therefore patentable for the same reasons as well as the because the combination of the features set forth in these claims and the features set forth in the claim(s) from which these claims depend.

Claims 7 and 8/7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu '260 in view of the prior art of Yamamoto and further in view of Laity (U.S. Patent No. 6,183,308). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 7 and 8/7 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over Wu and Yamamoto for the same reasons advanced above in connection with claim 1. Laity does not address any of the deficiencies noted with respect to Wu '260 and Yamamoto and accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 8/7 are dependent and are patentable over Wu, Yamamoto and Laity for the same reasons advanced above.

In addition, Wu '260 discloses that the board 7 is connected to the upper and lower contacts by soldering the sections 42 which have been soldered to the board 37.

It should be obvious to the Examiner Applicants concept of merely using the spring loaded pressure to effect electrical connection is simpler and does not involve the complexity of a soldering step or steps as is required in connection with Wu '260. Further, there is no suggestion in Wu '260 or in Laity that the Laity ??? contact system be incorporated into Wu '260 nor any disclosure or suggestion as to how that might be effected in connection with Wu '260.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 8/7 are clearly patentable over the combination of Wu '260, Yamamoto and Laity.

Claims 9/8/1, 9/8/2, 9/8/4-9/8/6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of the prior art over Yamamoto and further in view of Goodall et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,531,612). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 9/8/1,

9/8/2, 9/8/4-9/8/6 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and therefore are patentable over Wu '206 and Yamamoto for the same reasons since Goodall et al does not ??? any of the deficiencies of Wu '206 and Yamamoto, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9/8/1, 9/8/2 and 9/8/4-9/8/6 are patentable over the combination of Wu, Yamamoto and Goodall for the same reasons as claim 1 is patentable, as well as because of the combination of features set forth in these claims with the features set forth in the claim(s) from which they depend.

Claim 9/8/7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of the prior art of Yamamoto et al and Laity, and further in view of Goodall et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Yamamoto et al and further in view of Goodall et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to claim 6, the Examiner contends that Wu discloses second portions based upon by distances greater than the spacings of the first portions. He refers to Fig. 3. Applicants can find no such disclosure in Fig. 3. Indeed, just the opposite is found. It appears that the spacings between all of the contacts for terminal 42 and terminal 61 are identical.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 3, 8/3, 9/8/3 and 12.

In view of the foregoing this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 27, 2005

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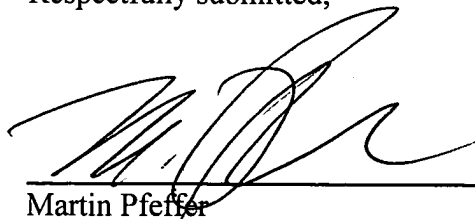

Signature

December 27, 2005

Date of Signature

MP/jh

Respectfully submitted,



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